all district headquarters of Assam and North Eastern Region; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THT DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) At present, there are six show rooms and one sale counter of NTC in the North Eastern Region.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no proposal with the Government to open new show rooms in other areas of Assam and North Eastern Region.

**Rubber Policy**

402. SHRI V. RAMANATHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a long-term rubber policy based on the detailed assessment of the country's rubber production and requirement of natural rubber is being considered; and

(b) what steps have been taken to reduce personal investments in rubber plantations and also to accelerate replantation programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to stepping up the production of rubber, the Rubber Board is already implementing a number of schemes like replanting/new-planting scheme, providing of scientific and technical support, supply of high yielding planting materials, etc. and is also undertaking research on all aspects of cultivation and production of rubber. Besides, a project for accelerated development of rubber in the North Eastern Region is under implementation.

Eligible growers are provided cash subsidy, interest subsidy on bank loans, subsidy for quality seedling etc. to reduce personal investments in rubber.

**Monitoring of Exports of Marine Products**

403. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government regularly monitor the exports of marine catch;

(b) if so, what are the comparative figures in quantity and value of shrimp exports from India during the periods between April 1, 1985 to March 31, 1986 and April 1, 1986 to March 31, 1987;

(c) whether his Ministry has made any study regarding the reasons for stagnation in its export despite increasing number of deep-sea fishing vessels and mechanised boats engaged for the purpose; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The export figures for March 1987 are under compilation. Export of shrimps during the period from April 1985 to March 1986 was 50349 tonnes, valued at Rs. 329.82 crores and during the period from April, 1986 to February, 1987, was 45407 tonnes, valued at Rs. 349.40 crores. The comparative export during corresponding period in 1985-86 (April 1985 to February 1986) was 45689 tonnes valued at Rs. 300.14 crores.

(c) and (d) A Technical Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture to look into the declining trend in shrimp catches.

(SOURCE.—Marine Products Export Development Authority.)